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Mr. Roger Hilsman
Director, Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Roger:

It has come to my attention that one of the suggestions for reducing the personnel in your bureau calls on you to abandon one analytical and two duty officer positions in the National Indications Center. In my opinion, such an action would result in a real loss to the national intelligence community.

The number one priority target of national intelligence remains to watch for enemy indications to launch hostilities against this country. Staffing of the National Indications Center is aimed exclusively at this target, and the demands in this area are increasing rather than decreasing.

This Agency can undertake to provide personnel replacements for the two duty officer positions, but to substitute a CIA intelligence officer, or any other, in the substantive and analytical position now filled by the Department of State would, I feel, not be in keeping with the objectives of national intelligence.

I urge you strongly to bring to the attention of the appropriate authorities in the Department of State the importance of maintaining the Department's substantive contribution to the National Indications Center and also of keeping this post filled at all times by providing for temporary replacement in any absence of the designated representative. You may cite my full support in this matter, and I know you will agree that the area of indications intelligence requires highly qualified, substantive experts from all elements of the intelligence community.

Sincerely,

John A. McGowan
SIGNED

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